# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:11
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2005
DECLINE IN LAND FERTILITY DUE TO USE OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS
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**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study over the decline in fertility of land due to the use of chemical fertilizers in agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the agricultural scientists have suggested measures to save the soil-fertility;

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon; and

(e) the other measures being taken by the Government to save the fertility of soil?

## Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 11 DUE FOR REPLY ON 25TH JULY, 2005.

(a)&(b): No all India study has been conducted about the decline in fertility of land due to use of chemical fertilizers in general. However, there are few instances of decline in carbon content and deficiencies of certain major and micro nutrients in soils in some parts of the country especially, rice wheat belt of Indo-gangetic plains due to imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers and neglect of organic manures. The average consumption of chemical fertilizer in the country is 89.83 kg/ha. during 2003-04. This level of consumption is not considered to have any ill effect on the fertility of the land.

(c)&(d): The Long Term Fertilizer Experiments conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for over 30 years have indicated that balanced and integrated use of chemical fertilizers and organic sources of nutrients can sustain soil health and increased crop productivity.

(e): The Government is promoting Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) which includes soil test based balanced and judicious use of chemical fertilizers in conjunction with organic fertilizers like Farm Yard Manure, green manure, compost, vermicompost and biofertilizers etc. for sustaining soil health and its productivity and also promoting organic farming under new scheme on `National Project of Organic Farming` (NPOF) for implementation during 10th Plan period for promotion, production, certification and market development of organic produce in the country.

In addition, ICAR has developed balanced and integrated nutrient management packages for different crops/cropping systems under various agro ecological regions of the country, suitable technologies for urban and rural composting, vermi composting, green manuring, recycling of crop residues, etc. to supplement use of chemical fertilizers.